



FORMER NO.1 JUNIOR IN WORLD, WIMBLEDON SEMIFINALIST HIGHLIGHT PPO FIELD
The Palmetto Tennis Center to host USTA Pro Circuit \$25,000 Women's Tournament, June 14-21

SUMTER, June 8, 2015 – The United States Tennis Association announced that American **Taylor Townsend** will headline the competitors for the Palmetto Pro Open, a \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit Event, at the Palmetto Tennis Center. Townsend is the only American to be ranked as the No. 1 Juniors Player in the World.

Currently No. 130 in the world, Townsend (USA) is the highest ranked player of the 20 women who received direct acceptance into the 32-player Main Draw, which begins Tuesday, June 16. The qualifying draw begins Sunday, June 14 with 55 players vying for the 12 remaining spots in the Main Draw.

Also in the main draw is American **Alexandra Stevenson**, who made the semifinals at Wimbledon in 1999 and was ranked as high as No. 18 in the world in 2002. Joining Townsend and Stevenson in the main draw are 2014 PPO finalist **Nadja Gilchrist** (USA) and 2014 semifinalist [6] **Caitlin Whoriskey** (USA).

Townsend is a two-time singles winner on the Pro Circuit – capturing both titles in \$50,000 events in 2014. She is coming off a loss in the first round of the French Open in Paris.

Rounding out the top 8 seeds in the Main Draw are [2] **Jennifer Brady** (USA, No. 215 in world), [3] **Mayo Hibi** (JPN, 221), [4] **Samantha Crawford** (USA, 242), [5] **Lauren Embree** (USA, 262), [7] **Chieh-Yu Hsu** (TPE, 280) and [8] **Sanaz Marand** (USA, 281).

Admission is free to spectators.

ABOUT THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT:

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000, the USTA Pro Circuit is the pathway to the US Open and tour-level competition for aspiring tennis players and a frequent battleground for established professionals. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit 34 years ago to provide players with the opportunity to gain professional ranking points, and it has since grown to become the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world, offering nearly \$3 million in prize money. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide. **Mardy Fish, Maria Sharapova, John Isner, Caroline Wozniacki, Sam Querrey, Li Na and Andy Murray** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

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